

Dear Jan,

11/12/88

You were lucky to have found so fine a place in so short a time! Best of luck, real happiness in it.

To answer your question, it appears that the operation was quite successful.

I was back for a checkup two days ago and this is what I was told then. I go back again in a month and on a number of occasions for the coming year. I am one of 50,000 in a study of lens implants. This is what they did to me, as I'll get to so you'll know.

I have had no real pain and although there are discomforts, they are not bad and I believe are the result of tissue being sensitized during the operation.

Actually, although the operation was done under a local, I slept through it! I'm sure they gave me a relaxant but I'm not at all sure they planned for me to sleep. I came to as they were finishing and heard the surgeon say that it had gone well. The local was like what the dentist does.

They did have problems with my blood, which was too heavily anticoagulated after I'd had no medication for 2 1/2 ~~days~~ days. So, although they hadn't wanted to, they gave me an injection to correct that and went ahead.

I'm not allowed to drive for at least another month and maybe longer, and that does make problems that we've been able to work around. Especially because this past week I had to have blood tests every day. This coming week only every other day.

I've been using my left or poorer eye to read, and that slows me down quite a bit because it is lazy and hasn't really been used for longer than you've been alive. Can't use that eye for typing so it is slower also and sometimes more inaccurate. But I've been reading with one poor eye. And am grateful for it.

Other restrictions are no bending at all and no lifting. I'm not sure why but I asked when I was back a week after I was discharged and they insisted on these restrictions, that I continue obeying them. I am, of course.

I am not sure but I think that from the way they spoke two days ago it will be about two more months before they prescribe new glasses. When I go back next month they are taking some kind of stitch in the eye and that is supposed to improve the vision. It is a great place and I'm sure it will be explained, as everything to now was.

The Wilmer Institute is world famous for its pioneering in eye surgery and that is where the operation was done but I ~~was~~ was not a patient in it. I was under hematology, the blood, where they studied it and were able to control what had to be controlled. Fine people there, too.

With all that is going on that I'd like to be able to follow better I'm not happy that it will take at least two more months before new glasses are prescribed and then a couple more weeks until they are ready. I'm not ~~unhappy~~ unhappy, though, because it means the future will be better.

I've been able to see most of the Anderson crap, which I helped with knowing that it would not be good. A number of reporters have taken some time and will again begin tomorrow. I've helped with a couple of other shows from which I expect no good. What ABC had on Ruby tonight wasn't bad but I think most of what is to come may be. The one thing that I know is good is a documentary I helped a Univ. Md. graduate student with. It won a big documentary prize, the Eagle award by CIBE, and it will be shown around the world for the coming year as representative the US in competitions. A cable bought it and is airing it 11/19 and 11/20, 7 and 11 p.m. EST. I think he'll probably be selling cassettes. Thanks and best to you both,

Harold